

REMARKS

This is intended as a full and complete response to the Office Action dated July 5, 2006, having a shortened statutory period for response set to expire on October 5, 2006. Please reconsider the claims pending in the application for reasons discussed below.

Claims 1-41 remain pending in the application and are shown above. Claims 1 and 38-41 are rejected, claims 2-21 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, and claims 22-37 are indicated to be allowable by the Examiner. Reconsideration of the rejected claims is requested for reasons presented below.

Claim 2 has been cancelled by Applicant. Claim 1 has been amended to add the indicated allowable subject matter of claim 2. Claims 3, 5-6, 8-9, 11, 15-16, and 18-19 have been amended to provide proper antecedent basis. Claims 38-41 have been amended to clarify the claimed subject matter.

Claims 38-41 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention. Applicant has amended claims 38-41 as suggested by the Examiner. Applicant submits the rejection is obviated and respectfully requests withdrawal of the rejection.

Claim 1 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by *Hunkapiller* (U.S. Patent No. 4,558,845). Applicant has amended claim 1 by adding the subject matter of claim 2, which was indicated as allowable. Therefore, Applicant submits *Hunkapiller* does not teach or suggest an electronically controlled valve assembly, comprising a valve body having a valve seat, and at least two gas inlets and one gas outlet below the valve seat, a piston movable within the valve body above the valve seat between an open position and a closed position, the piston being configured to seal at least one of the at least two gas inlets when the piston is moved to the closed position, a solenoid coil for generating a magnetic field, and a magnetic member, the magnetic member and the solenoid coil moving relatively away from each other when the solenoid coil is electromagnetically induced, such relative movement moving the piston between the open and closed positions, wherein the gas outlet is in fluid communication

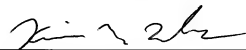
with a substrate processing chamber, as recited in claim 1. Applicant respectfully requests withdrawal of the rejection to claim 1.

Claim 1 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over *Kowalski* (U.S. Patent No. 3,921,111). Applicant has amended claim 1 by adding the subject matter of claim 2, which was indicated as allowable. Therefore, Applicant submits *Kowalski* does not teach, suggest, or provide motivation for an electronically controlled valve assembly, comprising a valve body having a valve seat, and at least two gas inlets and one gas outlet below the valve seat, a piston movable within the valve body above the valve seat between an open position and a closed position, the piston being configured to seal at least one of the at least two gas inlets when the piston is moved to the closed position, a solenoid coil for generating a magnetic field, and a magnetic member, the magnetic member and the solenoid coil moving relatively away from each other when the solenoid coil is electromagnetically induced, such relative movement moving the piston between the open and closed positions, wherein the gas outlet is in fluid communication with a substrate processing chamber, as recited in claim 1. Applicant respectfully requests withdrawal of the rejection to claim 1.

In conclusion, Applicant thanks the Examiner for the indicated allowance of claims 22-37. Applicant submits that claims 1 and 38-41 are in a condition for allowance. Applicant also submits the references cited by the Examiner, alone or in combination, do not teach, show, or suggest the invention as claimed.

Having addressed all issues set out in the office action, Applicant respectfully submits that the claims are in condition for allowance and respectfully request that the claims be allowed.

Respectfully submitted,



Keith M. Tackett, Reg. No. 32,008
PATTERSON & SHERIDAN, L.L.P.
3040 Post Oak Blvd. Suite 1500
Houston, TX 77056
Telephone: (713) 623-4844
Facsimile: (713) 623-4846
Attorney for Applicant(s)